the CGHS Dispensaries started denying treatment to the Group 'A' & 'B' officers working on deemed depution in MTNL. Then the Officers' Association had requested the authorities to extend the MTNL medical facility to Group 'A' & 'B' officers also.

(c) The Group 'A' & 'B' officers will be allowed to avail the CGHS medical facilities if they opt for it. The denial if any, from CGHS dispensaries will be taken up by Department of Telecom with the Department of Health for extending the CGHS medical facilities for the willing Group 'A' & 'B' officers on deemed deputation in MTNL.

Postage stamps on historical places

2225. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the famous historic temples of Tamil Nadu especially from Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thirichirpalli and Thanjavour Districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any representation has been received by Government in respect of release of special postage stamps on these historical places; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to have special postage stamps on those historical places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Branch post offices in H.P.

2226. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch post offices working in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise and Panchayat-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to upgrade the branch post offices in the State;

(c) the criteria for upgradation of branch post offices in the country; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation to upgrade any branch post offices in any part of the State, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN):

(a) District-wise and Panchayat-wise number of Branch Post Offices working in Himachal pradesh is given in the Statement-I enclosed *(See below).*

(b) For the present, there is no proposal to upgrade Branch Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) The details of criteria for upgradation of Branch Post Offices in the country are given in Statement-II enclosed *(See* below*).*

(d) 14 (fourteen) representations were received for upgradation of Branch Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh so far during the year 2002-03. The proposals were reviewed and proposed upgradation was not found justified.

Statement-I

District-wise and Panchayat-wise number of branch post offices working in Himachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Branch Post Offices working in District	No. of Gram Panchayats in District	No. of Panchayats having Branch Post Offices
1	Bilaspur	116	136	116
2	Chamba	196	270	196
3	Hamirpur	172	215	172
4	Kangra	537	732	537
5	Kinnaur	59	62	59
6	Kullu	129	192	129
7	L/Spiti	38	41	38
8	Mandi	308	422	308
9	Shimla	281	331	281
10	Sirmour	157	219	157
11	Solan	152	198	152
12	Una	150	219	150
	TOTAL:	2295	3037	2295

Statement-II

Criteria for upgradation of branch post offices in the country

(a) **In Rural Areas:**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two-delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Telephone Cable Link to Panchapalli village

2227. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panchapalli village (Erasama block) of Jagatsinghpur district in Orissa is deprived of underground/overhead telephone cable link;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for faulty functioning of WLL technology in this village;

(d) the steps Government propose to take against officers responsible for this stepmontherly attitude towards Panchapalli villagers